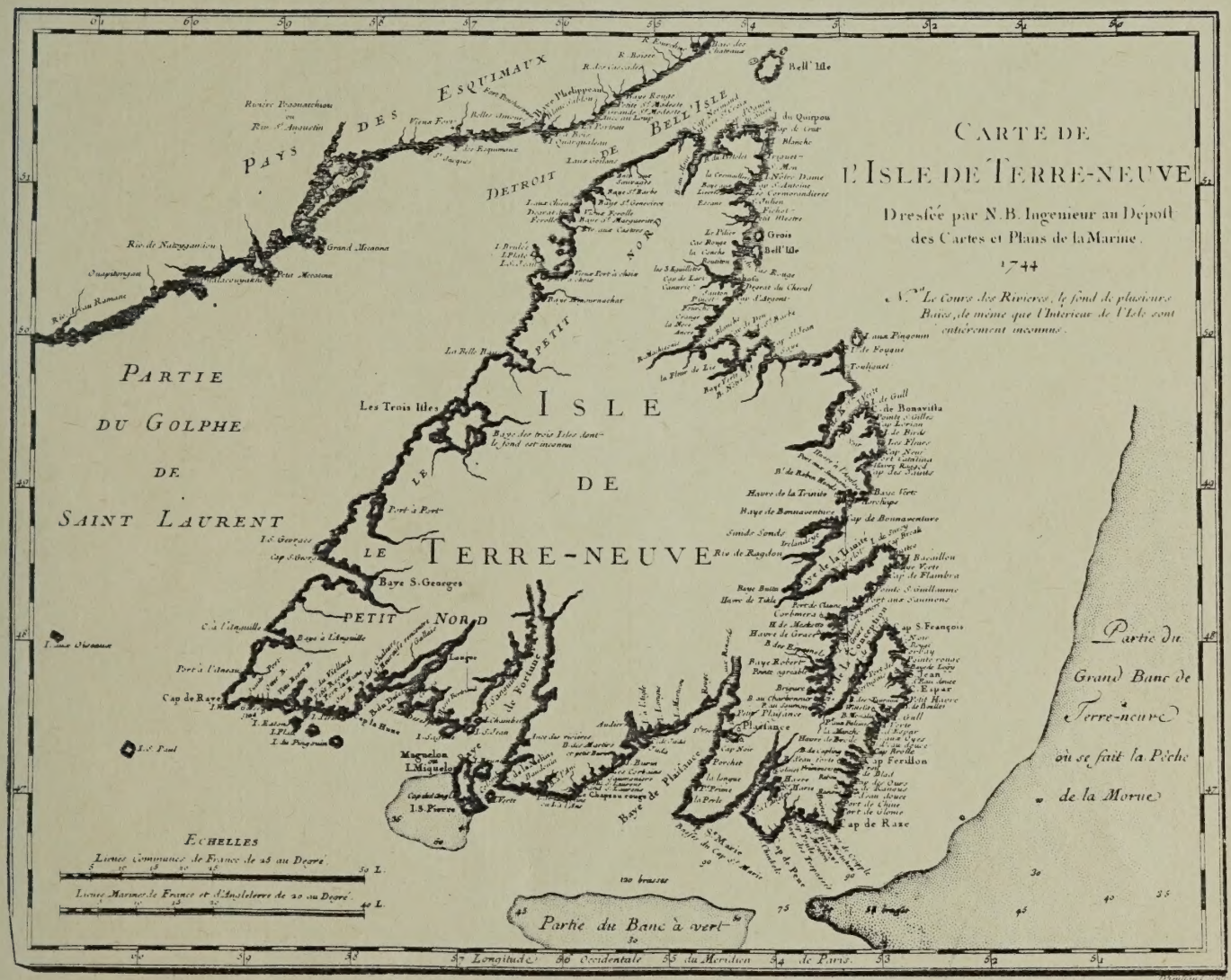
Canada in Maps

From Early Times to the Present


CARTE DE
L'ISLE DE TERRE-NEUVE
Dressée par N.B. Ingenieur au Dépost des Cartes et Plans de la Marine.
1744
PARTIE DU GOLPHE DE SAINT LAURENT
ISLE DE TERRE-NEUVE
PAYS DES ESQUIMAUX
DETROIT DE BELLISLE
PETIT NORD
Les Trois Isles
Baye S. Georges
Bell'Isle
Grois
Partie du Grand Banc de Terre-neuve où se fait la Pêche de la Morue
Partie du Banc à vert
ECHELLES
Longitude Occidentale du Meridien de Paris

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
July 11 - September 2, 1983

CANADA IN MAPS

FROM EARLY TIMES TO THE PRESENT

An exhibition

held at

THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

July 11 - September 2, 1983

CANADA IN MAPS

FROM EARLY TIMES TO THE PRESENT

Much of the story of Canada is revealed in the cartography of the country over the years. Maps shown here, all from the Thomas Fisher Library collections, form a necessarily restricted sample illustrating early exploration, boundary changes, military events, or local history and development.

CASE I: EARLY MAPS

1. SEBASTIAN MÜNSTER, 1489-1552

Tabula nouarum insularum, quas diversis respectibus occidentales & indianas uocant. (In the author's Cosmographiae uniuersalis lib. VI. [Basiliae, 1559]).

Shown here is Münster's "New world", first issued in 1540. It shows Canada joined to New England by a narrow peninsula.

2. CORNEILLE WYTFLIET

Estotilandia et laboratoris terra. (In the author's Histoire vniverselle des Indes, orientales et occidentales. Douay [1605]).

This map indicates the extent of knowledge of northern America in 1597, when the work was first published. It shows the explorations of Davis and Frobisher. Hudson Strait had not yet been explored.

3. SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN, 1567-1635

Quebec. (In the author's Voyages et descovvertvres faites en la Novvelle France, depuis l'année 1615 iusques à la fin de l'annee 1618. Paris, 1627).

Drawn in 1613, this is the earliest representation of Quebec and its surroundings.

4. SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN, 1567-1635

Carte de la Nouuelle France. 1632. (In the author's Works. Toronto, 1922-36).

This is a facsimile of the map drawn specially for publication in Les voyages of 1632. It was intended to summarize Champlain's explorations between 1603 and 1629.

"Grand lac", to the west, is commonly believed to be Lake Superior.

5. LUKE FOX, 1568-1635

[Map of the Arctic regions]. (In the author's North-vvest Fox. London, 1635).

Fox was an English navigator searching for a northwest passage to Asia. In 1631 he investigated thoroughly the west coast of Hudson Bay, discovering that no passage was possible there.

CASE II: BOUNDARIES

6. JAMES WYLD, 1812-1887

Map to illustrate the boundary line established by the Treaty of Washington of the 9th of August, 1842, between Her Majestys colonies of New Brunswick and Canada and the United States of America. London [1842?]

Known as the "Maine boundary", this border was in dispute almost from the date of the Treaty of Paris, 1783 to 1842. It was decided finally by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, which kept intact the communication route from Fredericton to Quebec via Lake Temiscouata.

7. GUILLAUME DELISLE, 1675-1726

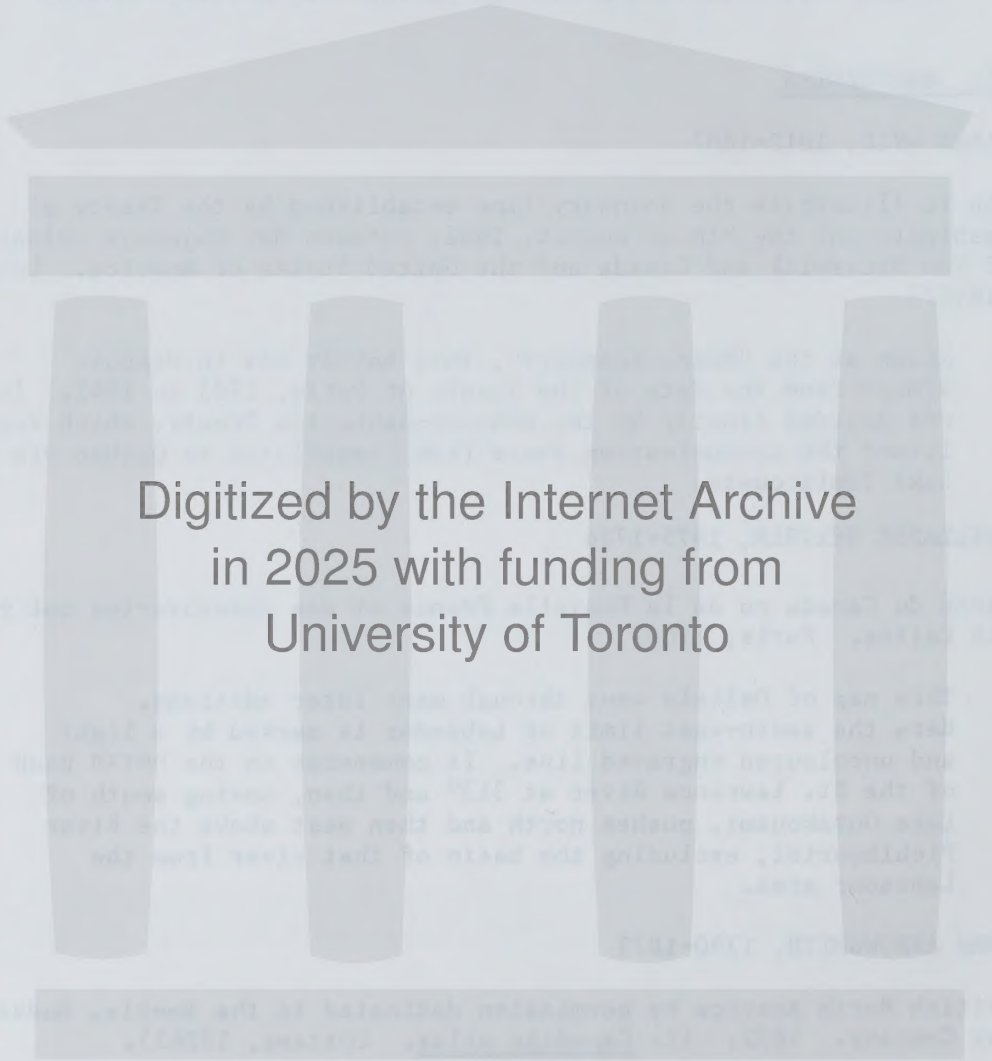
Carte du Canada ou de la Nouvelle France et des descouvertes qui y ont été faites. Paris, 1703.

This map of Delisle went through many later editions. Here the south-west limit of Labrador is marked by a light and uncoloured engraved line. It commences on the north bank of the St. Lawrence River at 313° and then, moving south of Lake Outakouami, pushes north and then west above the River Pichibourini, excluding the basin of that river from the Labrador area.

8. JOHN ARROWSMITH, 1790-1873

British North America by permission dedicated to the Honble. Hudson's Bay Company. 1832. (In Canadian atlas. [Ottawa, 1926]).

Here, in a reprint of Arrowsmith's map of 1832, the eastern boundary of Labrador begins further north than that of Delisle's work of 1703. The Wolchish Mountains are shown, along with the Labrador river system emptying into Hudson Bay and Strait. The settlement of Assiniboia, at the Red and Assiniboine rivers, and the trading districts of the Hudson's Bay Company are named for the first time.
The atlas is one of three used by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the settlement of the Labrador boundary case between Canada and Newfoundland in 1927.



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CASE III:

9. JONATHAN CARVER, 1732-1780

A new and correct map of the province of Quebec, with the adjacent states and provinces, from the French surveys, connected with those made by Captain Carver, and other officers in His Majesty's service. London, 1788.

Shown here is a later issue of Carver's well known 1776 map, with the Quebec-Labrador boundary marked by the St. John River. (Its course should lie further to the west)
New Brunswick, newly separated from Nova Scotia in 1784, is recognized in this edition.

SOME MILITARY MAPS

10. THOMAS JEFFERYS, d. 1771

An authentic plan of the river St. Laurence from Sillery to the fall of Montmorenci, with the operations of the siege of Quebec under the command of Vice-Admi. Saunders & Major Genl. Wolfe down to the 5. Sepr. 1759. Drawn by a captain in His Majesties Navy. London [1760?]

With a commanding position on Cape Diamond, the Quebec of 1759 was a powerful French stronghold. Disposition of troops and ships involved in the siege by British forces is shown here.
Published by the prolific Thomas Jefferys, the plan is dedicated to William Pitt.

11. CLAUDE JOSEPH SAUTHIER, 18th cent.

A map of the inhabited part of Canada from the French surveys, with the frontiers of New York and New England, from the large survey by Claude Joseph Sauthier. London, 1777.

In 1775 Canada was invaded by American revolutionary forces and Montreal occupied. However, by May 1776 British reinforcements reached Quebec and the Americans began to retreat.
This map shows the 1776 winter quarters of the regiments of the King's Army.
The publisher was William Faden, who inscribed the work to General John Burgoyne.

12. JOSEPH BOUCHETTE, 1774-1841

Plan of York harbour. [London] 1815.

York (now Toronto) underwent one major raid during the War of 1812-14. At the end of April of 1813 an American expedition burned in the stocks the ship shown here, burned the public buildings and occupied the town until May 9th.
Bouchette, who was surveyor-general of Lower Canada 1804-41, was involved in the vessel's rescue.

CASE IV: EXPLORATION

13. JOSEPH LA FRANCE, b. ca. 1707

A new map of part of North America. From the latitude of 40 to 68 degrees. Including the late discoveries made on board the Furnace Bomb Ketch in 1742. [London, 1744?]

La France was a French-speaking métis who had deserted the French and made his way from Lake Winnipegosis as far as Hudson Bay. In England he provided much information about the area to Arthur Dobbs, who was engaged in dispute with the explorer Christopher Middleton about a northwest passage. Dobbs believed quite wrongly that Wager Bay, shown here, was a strait.
The map is from Dobbs's An account of the countries adjoining to Hudson's Bay, in the north-west part of America. London, 1744.

14. JOSEPH FREDERICK WALLET DES BARRES, 1722-1824

The coast of Nova Scotia, New England, New York, Jersey, the gulph and river of St. Lawrence, the islands of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, St. John, Antecosty, Sable, &c. and soundings thereof. 1778. (From the author's The Atlantic Neptune. London, 1779-80. v. 1).

On instructions from the British Admiralty, Des Barres was engaged from 1763 to 1773 in surveying the coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. At last, in 1777, he published his famous four-volume atlas, The Atlantic Neptune.
Charts like the one displayed here were to become standard guides for navigation off the eastern coast of North America, as well as examples of artistic production.

15. EDWARD AUGUSTUS INGLEFIELD, 1820-1894

Chart shewing the North West Passage, discovered by Capt. R. Le M. McClure, H.M. ship Investigator. Also the coast explored in search of Sir J. Franklin ... By E.A. Inglefield, commander, H.M.S. Phoenix. [London] 1853.

Sent to the Arctic with dispatches, Inglefield returned in 1853 with news that Robert McClure had found the western entrance to the northwest passage, having rounded Alaska and discovered Prince of Wales Strait.
This map shows routes taken by the ships Investigator and Phoenix, and indicates by shading the coasts investigated by Ross, Richardson, McClure and other explorers.

CASE V: MORE BOUNDARIES

16. MAP OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA and the British possessions in North America with a portion of the United States. (In Tackabury's atlas of the Dominion of Canada. Montreal, 1875).

In this map the size of Manitoba is seen in relation to the rest of the country, and the Hudson's Bay Company trading districts are outlined. (However, the Northern Pacific Railroad west of the Missouri River and the Canadian Pacific line were not yet completed as shown).

17. DAWSON BROTHERS

Map of Manitoba, Kewaydin, British Columbia and North West Territory, shewing the country to be traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, 1882. Montreal [1882?]

Here Manitoba has been extended by an 1881 act of the Canadian Parliament. The provisional district of Keewatin lies to the the north and the North West Territories, bought in 1869 from the Hudson's Bay Co., are to the west and east. The four provisional districts created in 1882 between Manitoba and British Columbia do not appear.

18. CANADA. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

British Columbia & Yukon-Alaska boundary. (In the Department's Atlas of Canada. [Toronto] 1906).

The last great gold rush at Bonanza Creek, near Dawson City, resulted in miners pouring into Alaska, mainly by ship up the Lynn Canal and then overland. By 1900 gold production had risen enormously, and rival claims of Canada and the United States to ports at the head of the Canal, both based on the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1825, became urgent.
Displayed here is a map showing the contentions of Great Britain and the United States, along with the 1903 award of the joint Anglo-American tribunal in favour of the latter.

19. CANADA. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

Ontario-Manitoba boundary. (In the Department's Atlas of Canada. [Toronto] 1906).

From 1873 on, both Manitoba and Ontario pressured for enlargement of their respective territories.
In this dispute, the Dominion of Canada and Manitoba argued that Ontario was bounded on the west by a line due north along 89° 09' 30" to the height of land between the St. Lawrence and Hudson Bay. Ontario insisted on a due north line from the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods and, on the north, the English and Albany Rivers.
The Imperial Privy Council decided for Ontario in 1884.

CASE VI: COUNTIES

20. THOMAS STRAHAN SHENSTON, 1822-1895

Map of the county of Oxford. 1852. (In the author's The Oxford gazetteer. Hamilton, 1852).

Here one can see the routes of several of the wooden plank roads much used in the middle nineteenth century and of a stone road. The Dundas Plank Road linked Woodstock to Burlington Bay.
Construction of the Great Western had started only in 1851.
By 1852 Oxford County had reverted to its original name, having been known for years as the Brock District.

21. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, divided into counties & parishes, with the lots, as granted by Government. 1798. (In A Description of Prince Edward Island, in the Gulf of St. Laurence, North America. London [180-?]).

The three geographical counties are shown.
Originally known as Île St. Jean, and then St. John Island, this colony suffered considerably from confusion in the mails with settlements of similar name in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and the coast of Labrador. The name Prince Edward Island, honouring the Duke of Kent, was adopted officially in 1799.

22. THOMAS DEVINE

Sherbrooke. (In the author's [Maps of the counties of Quebec and Ontario. Montreal, 1855?]).

Here are shown the Gosford settlement road, completed in 1853, and its branch, the Megantic. Along with the Craig, the Gosford linked Quebec City with the Eastern Townships.
The railroad is the St. Lawrence and Atlantic, extending from Montreal as far as Sherbrooke.
The Sherbrooke County of today is much smaller, corresponding to the south-west section of the area displayed here.

CASE VII: CITIES

23. A. LARUE

Plan of the city of Quebec, drawn and compiled from original plans, by A. Larue. Quebec, 1842.

Incorporated as a city in 1832, Quebec increased in importance as the capital of Lower Canada, 1791-1841. It attracted visitors because of this, and because of its military history, its old walls and houses, religious buildings and commercial establishments. It was to become the capital of the Province of Canada, 1851-1855.

24. W. G. FONSECA

Winnipeg, 1884. Ottawa, 1884.

The arrival in 1881 of the Canadian Pacific Railway caused a boom in Winnipeg, leading to a doubling of population and built-up area. The city became distributing centre for both

settlers and manufactured goods in the entire Canadian northwest. Railroad yards and shops occupied much space and the warehouse district near Main Street quickly established itself.
Portage Avenue is called "Queen Street".

25. GENERAL PLAN OF STREET SYSTEM, parks, playgrounds and waterways, also subdivision of surrounding areas. 1915. (In Canada. National Capital Commission. Report ... on a general plan for the cities of Ottawa & Hull. [Ottawa, c1916]).

The Federal Plan Commission set up in 1913 was asked to make recommendations for a co-ordinated improvement of the Ottawa-Hull area, to suggest buildings, parks and boulevards, and to attempt to solve transportation problems.
Illustrated here are some of its proposals, many of which were postponed owing to World War I.

CASE VIII: FIRE INSURANCE PLANS

Publication of fire insurance plans was initiated in Canada in 1876 by the firm of G.E. Goad, following the lead of D.A. Sanborne, an American entrepreneur. In 1917 this work was taken over by the Underwriters' Survey Bureau, and then by the Canadian Underwriters' Association Plan Division.

Besides usual details supplied by most large-scale town plans, these maps show particulars of building construction and locations of municipal water works and fire-protection facilities.

Revision often was managed by pasted labels. Some outdated plans were simply recalled from customers, who usually only rented them, and as a result many older plans are quite rare.

26. CHARLES EDWARD GOAD

St. Armand, P.Q. Montreal, 1885.

One of the earlier plans, on scale of 1:600.

27. UNDERWRITERS' SURVEY BUREAU

Ingersoll, Ont. Population 5,100. Plan dated June, 1913. Rev. to Sept., 1928. Toronto, 1928.

This plan illustrates the use of paste-overs for revision. Displayed are 2 of the 21 sections: the key plan, on scale of 1:6,000 and section 3, on scale of 1:600.

28. WESTERN CANADA INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION

Insurance plan of the city of Camrose, Alberta. Winnipeg, 1955.

The first 3 sheets are shown, including the key plan and key to symbols.

CASES IN THE EAST READING ROOM:

29. NICOLAS SANSON D'ABBEVILLE, 1600-1667

Americqve septentrionale. (In the author's L'Americqve, en plvsievrs cartes novvelles, et exactes, &c. Paris [ca. 1665]).

This map is that of the 1657 edition, but without a date and with the imprint of Pierre Mariette.
Here the Great Lakes are properly positioned, although their exploration was still incomplete. The "L. des Puans" is Lake Michigan.
The long-sought northwest passage is shown as leading out of Hudson Bay.

30. JACQUES NICOLAS BELLIN, 1703-1772

Carte de l'Accadie, dressée sur les manuscrits du Dépost des cartes et plans de la marine. 1744. (In Charlevoix, P.F.X. de. Histoire et description generale de la Nouvelle France. Paris, 1744).

The "Acadie" ceded to Britain in 1713 was the Nova Scotia peninsula. It is shown here before French-British hostilities in the Ohio Valley and the resulting dispersal in 1755 of French-speaking Acadians to other colonies.
Halifax was not founded until 1749.

31. JACQUES NICOLAS BELLIN, 1703-1772

Plan du Port Royal dans l'Accadie appellé aujourd! par les Anglois Annapolis Royale. 1744. (In Charlevoix, P.F.X. de. Histoire et description generale de la Nouvelle France. Paris, 1744).

In 1710, after changing hands several times, Port Royal became Annapolis Royal, turning into a small English town surrounded by Acadians.

32. JACQUES NICOLAS BELLIN, 1703-1772

Carte du cours de la riviere du Saguenay, appellée par les sauvages Pitchitaouichetz, dressée sur les manuscrits du Dépost des cartes, et plans de la marine. 1744. (In Charlevoix, P.F.X. de. Histoire et description generale de la Nouvelle France. Paris, 1744).

Shows the course of the river from "Chekoutimi" to its mouth in the St. Lawrence.
For decades to come the economy of the Saguenay region depended on the trade in furs.

33. SAMUEL HEARNE, 1745-1792

A map exhibiting Mr. Hearne's tracks in his two journies for the discovery of the Copper Mine River in the years 1770, 1771 and 1772 under the direction of the Hudson's Bay Company. (In the author's A journey from Prince of Wales's Fort, in Hudson's Bay, to the Northern Ocean. Dublin, 1796).

Hearne successfully explored the Coppermine River on his third attempt in 1771-72, becoming the first man to reach the Arctic Ocean overland.
The map indicates his journey of 1770 along with this third route, which led out through Snow Bird and Catt Lakes, returning by way of the "Athapuscow" (Athabasca) and Wholdiah Lakes.

34. WILLIAM FADEN, 1750-1836

North America, including the West Indies. 1798. (In the author's Atlas minimus universalis. [London] 1798).

Here, as on the accompanying map by Wilkes (35), is depicted the "false coast" of Baffins Bay seen in many maps.

35. J. WILKES

British colonies in North America. London, 1797.

The Coppermine River is included in this small map, along with much detail about other Canadian rivers and lakes. (Lake Michigan is omitted).
The conjectured "New Sea" and its outlets to Hudson Bay and Strait are seen also in the map by La France (13).

CASES IN THE WEST READING ROOM:

36. WILLIAM EDWARD PARRY, 1790-1855

A chart of the discoveries of H.M.S. Hecla & Griper, commanded by Lieut. W.E. Parry & Lieut. M. Liddon, being on a voyage to discover a N.W. Passage. (In the author's Journal of a voyage for the discovery of a North-West Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific; performed in the years 1819-20. Philadelphia, 1821.

On this expedition Parry sailed through Lancaster Sound and found three possible waterways: Prince Regent Inlet, Barrow Strait and Viscount Melville Sound, and Wellington Channel. During the mission he named some twenty islands, including Devon, Melville and Banks, as well as Admiralty Inlet.

37. EDWARD STAVELEY

Plan of proposed line of railroad [the North Shore Railway] on the north shore of the River St. Lawrence, between the cities of Quebec & Montreal. [Quebec, 1852]

Staveley was commissioned to survey the route between Quebec City and Montreal. After many delays, and government intervention, the North Shore became part of the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental line, completed in 1879 from Quebec to Ottawa.

38. ALEXANDER MONRO, b. 1813

Map of roads, railroads and minerals. (In the author's New Brunswick, with a brief outline of Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Halifax, N.S., 1855).

As early as 1849 the Province of Canada (now Ontario and Quebec) was discussing the Quebec to Halifax railway project.
The Halifax to Truro line was opened for traffic in December 1858, while that from St. John to Shediac was completed in 1860.

39. CHARLES WILLIAM ALLEN, b. 1840

The land prospector's manual and field-book, for the use of immigrants and capitalists taking up lands in Manitoba and the North-West Territories of Canada. London, 1881.

This volume explains in popular language the system of survey and the Dominion lands' law and regulations.
Two copies are displayed: one open at a map exhibiting boundaries of the land districts, together with locations of their local agents' offices, the other at a map indicating relative positions of the base and correction lines.

40. JOHN BARTHOLOMEW, 1831-1893

Commercial map of the dominion of Canada. (In Campbell's commercial gazetteer and atlas. Toronto, 1885).

Seen here is yet another interpretation of the Labrador boundary, close to that determined in 1927 and presented on maps of today.
The provisional districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Athabaska and Alberta were created as shown in 1882, with their governor's seat at Regina.

41-43. ONTARIO. DEPT. OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

Road map of the county of Essex. 1920.
Road map of the county of Waterloo. 1920.
Road map of the county of York. 1918.

These county maps are all from the Department's atlas, County maps. Toronto, 1918-24.
Owing to their fairly large scale, layouts of the townships stand out clearly. Railroads and several classes of roads are shown.

44. CANADIAN UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION. PLAN DIVISION

Insurance plan of the village of Salmon Arm, B.C. Toronto, 1970.

These are three sheets of one of the later insurance plans. Publication ceased in 1973 because of rising production costs.

Verniece Webber
June 1983

Cover designed by Tom Reid showing a map by Nicolas Bellin